

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
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INCOMING AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AV-6

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FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

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INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 6343

RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1268

RUEHOT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 12

RUESEI/AMCONSUL RECIFE 3446

RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 5481

RULPAL/USCINCSO

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 43

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RIO DE JANEIRO 4633

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED HIJACKING BRZILIAN PLANE

REF: RIO 4625

MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

1. NEWSPAPERS REPORT EO50X1 THAT FOUR ATTEMPTED HIJACKERS OF CRUZEIRO DO SUL PLANE ARRESTED AFTER SECURITY AUTHORITIES FORCED ENTRY OF PLANE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. ONLY APPARENT SERIOUS INJURY OF PASSENGERS OR CREW WAS TO PILOT WHO SHOT IN THIGH. ONE OF HIJACKERS SHOT HIMSELF IN HEAD IN APPARENT SUICIDE ATTEMPT.

2. NAMES OF HIJACKERS GIVEN AS JESSIE JANE (ONLY WOMAN) COLOMBO VIEIRA SOUSA JUNIOR, AND THE BROTHERS EIRALDO AND FERNANCO PALHA, ALL APPARENTLY UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE. PASSENGERS REPORT HIJACKERS STATED THEIR INTENTION WAS TO RANSOM FORTY POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD BY POLICE IN EXCHANGE FOR LIBERATION OF PASSENGERS. THEY INDICATED THEIR DESTINATION WAS CUBA. EO50X1 MOST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE RANSOMED WERE MEMBERS OF MOVIMENTO REVOLUCIONARIO-8 WITH SOME ACAO LIBERTADORA NACIONAL INCLUDED.

3. HIJACKERS TOOK OVER PLANE AFTER IT HAD LEFT RIO FOR SAO PAULO AND DIRECTED PILOT TO RETURN TO RIO. ALL WERE ARMED WITH REVOLVERS, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN SMUGGLED

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05-14-2015

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ON BOARD BY JANE, SINCE WOMEN PASSENGERS REPORTEDLY WERE NOT CAREFULLY SEARCHED. HIJACKERS HAD THREATENED TO BLOW UP PLANE IF IT NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE FOR HAVANA, BUT NO INDICATION THEY HAD EXPLOSIVES WITH THEM.

4. ONE OF PASSENGERS WAS CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC COURIER, LEIGH NORMAN SHANKLAND, WHO APPARENTLY SAFEGUARDED DIPLOMATIC POUCH HE WAS CARRYING.

BOONSTRA

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